



The Maine Farmer

N. T. TRUE,
B. L. CARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

New England Agricultural Society.

We have heretofore refrained from taking any part in the discussion which has for the past three months been going on between the agricultural journals of Boston in regard to the New England Agricultural Society, and its "official organ," and should say nothing now but that our attention was arrested and called to the master by seeing the account of the annual meeting of the Society in the *N. H. Mirror and Farmer*, over which were the words, "OFFICIAL REPORT";—and lest by our silence, our contemporaries may infer we take no interest in the matter, and stand aloof from this new organization, the *Maine Farmer* will state its opinion on the subject.

At the commencement of the present year, the *Massachusetts Ploughman* (an excellent agricultural journal, intended to be edited by Chas. L. Flint), the able and well known Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, was enlarged in size, and the publisher announced,—we state from memory, not preserving the names of the paper,—that in accordance with an arrangement with Dr. Loring, President of the New England Agricultural Society, it would henceforth be acknowledged organ of that Society, and receive in advance, information in regard to its proceedings, &c. At its editorial head it also published, and still keeps standing, Dr. Loring's letter, with a list of officers of the Society &c. &c. To this announcement the *New England Farmer* and *Boston Cultivator* were greatly disatisfied, and commenced a discussion in their columns with the same vigor as the *Ploughman*, until the present time. One or the other of these papers stated that the *Ploughman* was very much less than either of the others, and the publishers of the *N. E. Farmer* addressed a letter to Dr. Loring asking him why he took such action, made such a distinction among the agricultural journals of New England, and selected the paper having the least circulation of the three agricultural journals in Boston as the "organ" of the Society, to which no reply was received. At the annual meeting of the Society, recently held in Boston, Dr. Loring gave an explanation of his action in the master, and afterwards, on motion of one of the Massachusetts members, it was voted, "That the connection of the *Massachusetts Ploughman* with the New England Agricultural Society, meets with our cordial approval." Such, it is, a statement of the case, and where it rests, we believe, for the present at least.

We believe the New England Agricultural Society ought to be able to get along without the *official aid* of any one of the seven agricultural journals in the New England States, so long as they are all known to be working for the good of improved husbandry in their respective territories, and are all willing to aid the Society in its good work, as the *Maine Farmer* has done ever since the Society was organized, by all it could say or do;—and we believe the *Mass. Ploughman* ought to be able to get along without the patronage afforded it by the New England Agricultural Society, in consequence of its being its recognized "organ."

We also believe good would result both from the action of the Society in being distinguished as the "organ" of its "official organ." We believe, for instance, that the *Mass. Ploughman* ought to be able to get along without the *official aid* of its own subscribers, if it could do so.

In this connection we will give the substance of a letter of inquiry addressed to us by one of our subscribers. He writes to us, "I am a native of England, and have worked there in different places, and ought to know a little concerning the master. Now I will give you my experience. In six counties, the highest wages paid were £10 per week, and the lowest £5.20 per month, and out of this they have to board themselves and family, if they have any. The above has been the same for 1848, with very little variation.—This I know from personal experience. It may have been previous to 1848, but I do not certain. I left England last July and it was so then, and probably will continue so for some time."

REMEDY FOR SCOURS IN CALVES. Mr. B. S. Farnham of this city, informs us that as he has found no remedy for scours in calves. Last spring he had a nice calf that was badly troubled in this way and tried several remedies recommended by friends, all of which proved ineffectual. He then tried roasting, taking a piece about as large as a thumb, soaking it in a cup of salt, and giving it to the calf. Once this does effectually checked the disorder. As this often proves a very troublesome disease among calves, it may be well for our readers to remember the above.

QUEARY. "A Shoemaker" asks how a poor young man, with only his hands, is going to get the Arouse town when he has all he can possibly do to get a living here, and nothing to help himself. He likes farming, and is anxious to get on a farm. Perhaps some of our subscribers in Arouse who have been through the mill" can give our inquirer information what will be best for him.

In this connection we will give the substance of a letter of inquiry addressed to us by one of our subscribers. He writes to us, "I am going to Arouse town this spring, and wishes to be informed through our communications what the conditions are of taking up land, where the best localities are, and what kind of place will prevail very extensively, he recommends the Concord, Clinton, and Hartford Preliminary.

THE CRUCIAN. It seems to be the belief of Dr. Trimble, Dr. Ass. Pitch, Mr. Walsh and others familiar with the habits of insects infesting our fruit trees, that the cruciferous in the cherry, and the great bulk of the eggs so deposited will come to maturity unless artificially destroyed. For this reason cherries standing alone in out-of-the-way places, should be cut down, and all punctured fruit should be destroyed.

GRAPES. In advising a subscriber what kinds of grapes to plant, Mr. Mecham, editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*, says: "The Ion is a grape of first class flavor, and wherever the Cawthron will grow we think it perfectly safe to plant Ion." The statement that it was entirely free from mildew, does not, however, prove true, as it has been found to mildew everywhere, as easily as their varieties. If in a locality where mildew prevails very extensively, he recommends the Concord, Clinton, and Hartford Preliminary.

HEDGE PLANT. The Norway spruce is strongly recommended for a hedge plant by several of the Western horticulturists. It does not shade the ground so much as the Osage Orange, is perfectly hardy and a beauty forever. On the grounds of Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y., a beautiful Norway spruce hedge that will turn any stock, from horses and cattle to a rabbit. In setting a hedge plants from two to three feet high, placing them three feet apart in the row. In four years they will form a beautiful compact hedge.

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HILL VS LEVEL FARMS. (* Lincoln.) If a farmer buys a farm containing just one hundred acres of hilly and rolling land, he gets a much larger number of square feet of surface, than the one who purchases a farm of just one hundred acres all of it being level, interval land—but at the same time, he generally will get a larger number of acres unsuitable for cultivation, than the one who purchased the level farm.

A USEFUL HINT. In the article on "Cranberry Growing in New Jersey," which appeared in No. 18 present volume of *FARMER*, for "average crop of fifteen bushels per acre," read "one hundred and fifty bushels."

A CURIOUSITY. Mr. J. N. Metcalf of Wintrop, has left at our office a stalk of corn containing seven perfect ears, and two ears partly filled out. Most of the ears are of good size, and being all retained on the stalk it presents quite a curious appearance.

ERADICATING WEEDS. M. A. Allen, Buckfield, writes us he has a field nearly spoiled by the land being completely occupied with a weed known as Liverwort, or Aaron's Rod, and he would be glad if our readers can give him a method of exterminating it.

The Wood Pile.

Cows, boys, get your axes ready and attack the wood-pile. School is done, the days are growing longer and warmer, and you begin to feel as though you wanted a little more out of door exercise. Don't let your old father cut up the wood-pile. We never like to see father and grandfather at work cutting and sawing wood, and the boys off to the stores and shops, or in the house doing nothing. It is not right.

Do not try to do too much the first day. Come home moderately so as to accustom the shoulders and back to the new labor, than you will not break down.

Cut your wood short enough for all your stoves. It is very inconvenient for the cook to have the wood cut too long. Split up a lot of wood for summer cooking, very fine. Two or three cords split up into kindling wood to be used for cooking during the hottest months is very convenient. It makes a good blaze and heats the tea-kettle quickly without heating up the room. If you are obliged to pile up any wood out of doors, put the split side of the stick down, so that the bark will serve as a little shelter. It will soon have.

The wood cut up in good season and partially seasoned so as to put it under cover if possible before spring's work comes on, and you will commence the labors of the year all right. A little pains about the wood pile adds very much to the comfort of the whole family. We think well of the idea of having a cord or two of charred wood. We mean by this, wood that has been baked almost to a coal. It kindles quickly and throws out a powerful heat. A cord will last longer and give out more heat prepared in this way in any other small round wood which has a close bark, like sycamore and birches, should as much as possible be cracked open so they will dry.

A Handsome Orchard.

The finest looking orchard we have yet seen in our travels through the State is on the farm of Joseph Smiley, near the Oak Grove Seminary in Vassalboro. There are about one hundred and forty trees in the orchard, and they are all nearly alike in size, and are remarkable for their thrifty appearance. We should be glad to have a complete account of the history of this orchard. It might serve as an encouragement to others. Cannot Mr. Smiley furnish it?

Smutty Corn.

One of our correspondents wishes to know more about smutty corn. He writes: "Can you tell me what will prevent it, and whether the kind of seed planted has anything to do with it?" We cannot, though we answered with what could. It would be something, however, that no one has as yet satisfactorily explained. But let the master be agitated, it may perhaps draw out some thoughts from some of our readers.

Notes from Our Copy Drawer.

GRAIN IN ORCHARDS. (A. R. Jackson.) So far as we are aware we do not know that barley is more injurious to an orchard than any other grain crop. When the trees are young the best crops suited to an orchard are potatoes, ruts bags, beans, beans, and all low hood crops. Grains crops should in all cases be avoided, and while the trees are young the ground should never be seeded down. If your orchard is newly set out, do not by any means seed it down to grass at present, but cultivate it with some of the best manure available, and while the trees are young the best manure is horse or cow, falling on fresh clover at a dry time, will kill it—but just after a shower will do no injury. This shows the necessity of diluting it before applying to plants. Mr. Lothrop regards nearly all manorial liquids as dangerous, more especially those of the household, as chamber slops, salts and sink water. Therefore great care should be exercised on the use of these. Large numbers of trees have been killed by a too frequent application of strong soap-suds. Proper liquidation, and generally fermentation, seems to be the only safe condition for the application of liquid manure to plants during the growing season, but in the autumn months the same caution is not so necessary.

STRIPPED JAPANESE MAPLE. This is one of the new ornamental foliaged plants introduced from Japan, through the labor of our Thomas, Thomas Hogg. It is figured in the last number of *Hovey's Magazine*, and is described as being one of the most beautiful of the many ornamental foliaged plants, and is in addition very easy of cultivation. The leaves are three or four feet long, three or four inches wide, ribbed with white veins, and the brightest green, occasionally showing pink or rose-colored lines upon the edges, the whole producing a rich and grand aspect when planted in masses of four or six plants.

NEW TOMATOES. *Hovey's Magazine* names eight new varieties of the tomato, all brought to notice in the past year or two, several of which possess many excellencies. **Kaye's Early Profiler.** Which originated in Worcester, Mass., seems to stand foremost on the list. The plant is dwarf in its habit, and can be planted near together, the very leaves and twigs being white, smooth and free from wrinkles, and a few six or seven inches long, two or three inches wide, ribbed with white veins, and the brightest green, occasionally showing pink or rose-colored lines upon the edges, the whole producing a rich and grand aspect when planted in masses of four or six plants.

STRIPEY CHERRY. This is one of the new ornamental cherry varieties, introduced from Japan, through the labor of our Thomas, Thomas Hogg. It is figured in the last number of *Hovey's Magazine*, and is described as being one of the most beautiful of the many ornamental cherry varieties, and is in addition very easy of cultivation. The leaves are three or four feet long, three or four inches wide, ribbed with white veins, and the brightest green, occasionally showing pink or rose-colored lines upon the edges, the whole producing a rich and grand aspect when planted in masses of four or six plants.

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Augusta, Thursday, April 4, 1867.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. V. Darrow will call on his subscribers in Washington County during the month of March, and April.

Mr. C. Blodget will call upon subscribers in West Somers during the month of March.

Mr. J. A. Stevens is on a visit to our subscribers in Kennebec County.

A Reconnoissance.

We have been making a sort of preliminary survey to the public Hydrographic Survey on our own account during the past winter, of the seacoast of Maine from Saco to Kendall's Mills, on the Kennebec River. We have looked at the numerous waterfalls, the manufacturers, the ship-building interests and the prospective character of this portion of Maine with reference to the future agricultural interests of the State. We find some towns rapidly increasing in wealth and population chiefly by the introduction of foreign capital. In some villages, the shipbuilding is the more important. In others the wealthy men own navigation and the leading citizens follow the sea. A few towns are still in their infancy.

One point which strikes us forcibly is the fact that a change is gradually coming over many places with reference to their business operations. A few towns will still continue the business of shipbuilding. Ships must be built, and Maine can build as good as any other State. In some towns manufactures will be largely on the increase, while in towns where there is no "water power" a change of getting men to adapt or go to work.

It is quite common to find fault with men of wealth in our large towns because they do not invest their surplus capital in manufactures or some other active enterprises. But let us see. A large number of these property holders are men who have spent the best part of their days in acquiring their property. They have arrived at that age when they wish to withdraw their property from active service and live the rest of their days more quietly. This is natural, and is our opinion, perfectly right. Man is not always to be on the alert, and they invest their capital in bank stocks or something similar, where it will require but little of their attention. But there is a class of younger men in our larger cities, many of whom have inherited property, and are desirous of investing it in some active operation. These are the men who are to be sought after, who will be glad to make an investment wherever they see a prospect of an advance of their capital. They will readily invest in a gold, copper, or any other mine, or in manufacturing corporations. Now let me say quiet villages hold out inducements for this class of capitalists and they will gladly seize the opportunity for an investment, and the country for miles around will feel their influence.

Another fact has forced itself upon us, that a great change will come over this portion of the State within a few years for the better. Manufacturers must spring up at all these different points. Railroad facilities are increasing and extending their influence into the interior of the State to develop its manifold resources. We believe that farming investments will be perfectly safe, and advancing in value. Everything a farmer can raise in Maine has now a cash value. It was not always so. We see no reason why it should not always be in the future, so long as we have such an army of consumers to feed.

Text Books in Common Schools.

We feel sometimes like making a general onslaught upon the various text books used in our common schools at the present day. It seems as though authors feared lest something should be left out of their books that somebody else might lay hold of, and insert in their new books as of the greatest importance for a child to know. We have grammars, arithmetics and geographies crammed full of matter, leading down the minds of children with a mass of matter of little value to them, and as useless as it would be to learn the Chinese language. We recently met a bright girl of fourteen years, who was attending one of our city schools, and on inquiring, found that her class had been studying English Grammar three terms, yet they had never passed a word. They had been committing to memory a mass of this useless matter without idea any more than if they had been studying it in a foreign language. We have seen girls drilling over a large arithmetic year after year, when they could not write a letter of a single page and spell each word correctly. Take almost any geography and see how large a proportion of the questions are of no sort of account. There is nothing in the lesson to associate history with geography, and it is no better to them than a dead language. The same evil applies to the study of the languages. Huge grammars are put into the hands of boys to learn a language, and they become thoroughly disgusted with the whole thing. It is high time these things should be changed. Simplicity and a due degree of brevity will make better disciplined minds and better scholars, besides giving practical knowledge to a much larger class of minds. Let school committees take this matter in hand, and if an agent present them with a big text book, let them throw it into the fire. The cumbersome books now generally used serve only to make a good many stupid scholars. There are good text books to be had of the character we here recommend. Instead of having the minds of children strained up to the highest tension in committing to memory long lessons, let them have such books as can be mastered in a few terms at most, and let every lesson have ideas associated with it. We do not believe in having three or four grades of authorities in our primary schools. The clever boy or girl who has studied a small mental arithmetic has done enough to prepare him for his slate and larger arithmetic without being compelled to an arbitrary exercise of his powers on two or three grades of mental arithmetic. We speak decidedly on these points, with the hope that our Normal School and our school committees and teachers will take up this subject in earnest. A big book is no sign of great learning in its compilation; on the contrary, it is often the result of a stupid brain that does not know when to stop. It was a wise saying of Quintilian that it required the most skill to know what not to teach in grammar. So it demands equally great skill to know what one should not put into a text book.

MISISONARIES AMONG THE FRIENDS. We are informed that Eli and Sybil Jones, of China, (members of the Society of Friends) who spent the past winter among the freedom of the South, and who have twice crossed the Atlantic on their mission of love, laboring earnestly for the Master's cause both in Europe and Africa, are again to start on a mission tour through England, Ireland and Southern Europe, and will sail on the 19th inst. for Liverpool. On Sabbath afternoon, 26th inst., a farewell meeting was held at the Friends' place of worship in China, which was largely attended by their friends and neighbors of all denominations, and an earnest discourse was preached from the words "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, amen." We unite with their friends in wishing them a safe voyage, and great success in the object of their mission.

COAL WHORNS. A new State law, requiring that all mineral coal shall be sold by weight—2000 pounds to the ton—that sworn weighers may be appointed by town and city authorities annually, and that when so appointed the seller of coal shall, when not sold by the cargo, cause the same to be weighed by a sworn weigher, who shall make a certificate of the weight, and the seller shall not be entitled to recover or commence any action for the price of such coal until he shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the buyer such certificates. Provided, that it shall be competent for the parties to agree upon the quantity of coal without such survey or liability.

IMPORTANT TREATY. On Saturday last a treaty which has been negotiated with the Russian government, by which that power surrendered to the United States the sovereignty over all of Russian America and the adjacent islands. The prior to be paid for this territory is about \$7,000,000. The territory is about 8,000,000 square miles. It is nearly, but not altogether, exclusive British America from the coast. Its chief value consists in its fisheries and its fur trade.

COL. CHAS. H. SMITH of the 28th U. S. Infantry, formerly of the 1st Maine Cavalry, has been appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for the State of Arkansas.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Editorial Correspondence.

FREDRICK, March 15, 1867.

DEAR FARMER.—We have been spending a week most pleasantly in this quiet town. The rush of commerce, the buzzing of machinery, and the roar of materials is not heard here. Everything passes along the even tenor of its way. Now and then a ship is launched which is an event of itself and now and then a sea captain comes home from a long voyage, and his hardy face and broad chest, indicative of energy and character. The farmer lives quietly and comfortably on their farms, performing their duties as good citizens, and living remote from the excitement of the world save what may occur in their midst when they have a singing-school, a social party, or the occasional public levee for some benevolent institution. Happy people, thought we, as we looked upon their history for forty years past. We met a man whom we had not seen for fifty years. We remembered each other as little, very little boy. The recognition was a pleasant one. The red-headed boy has become the gray headed man.

We took much pleasure in visiting the homestead of Martin Gore, Esq., who showed us his beautiful farm. He had just sold a three-year-old heifer for two hundred dollars. Besides he has excellent hogs faithfully at work preparing his manure heap for the next year's crop. He has succeeded in raising heavy crops on what was once a barren waste. Give your soil measure enough and cultivation, and we have no fears about a crop almost anywhere in Maine. His test has tested the various kinds of fruit pretty extensively. He recommends very highly the Buffum pear for cultivation.

We were under special obligations to Dr. Wm. H. Weller, who called us round to visit the various points of interest. The Doctor deserved the credit of being not only an excellent surgeon during the war, but of having devoted much special attention to his patients for their personal comfort. The Doctor's stories would do a good deal toward curing a patient, while his musical talents, especially on the violin, served to drive away all despondency so detrimental to the health of a hospital patient.

There are two villages, one near the centre of the town, on the line of the Portland & Kennebec Road, the other known as South Prospect, situated at Stratton's Point. The former village was once known by its famous stage tavern, which had its basement changed into shops, so that the once big house, as it seemed to our juvenile eyes, is no longer recognized as such.

THE SPRAGUE PURCHASE. This long anticipated event, in which our own immediate community as well as the public at large throughout the State, have taken so deep an interest, we may now state, has been practically consummated by the conveyance to Messrs. A. & W. Sprague, the Kennebec Company's property, consisting of the water power, cotton factory, mills and real estate, for the sum of \$185,000. The legal transfer of the property took place on Saturday last. At the same time a conveyance of other real estate on both sides of the river owned by various individuals was made to the same parties. In addition to the above, the city has also transferred to the Messrs. Sprague real estates and bonds to the aggregate amount of \$250,000, the bonds to be appropriated by them to the purchase of such additional property as may in their judgment be needed for the development of the water power and to carry their plans of improvement into successful operation. The whole amount thus far transferred is from \$250,000 to \$280,000.

It may be remarked that much of the property originally intended to be embraced in the proposed improvements has not been included in the present purchase, owing to the difficulty of negotiating with parties owning the same, the price demanded by them being regarded as unreasonable, and even exorbitant. It is understood, however, that the property will at any time be taken by them at a fair valuation. It is unlikely that another transfer of property to a large amount will be made within a few days.

We have no special information in regard to the prosecution of the work of improvement, but have reason to doubt that operations will be immediately commenced, and vigorously carried forward. We hope to be able to communicate to our readers fuller and more definite information upon the subject next week.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LIQUOR LAW. Joshua N. Waterville, has been appointed by the Governor, State Constable, under the provisions of the law enacted by the Legislature at its last session. The appointment will doubtless be confirmed at the next session of the Executive Council. This office was created for the more vigorous and effectual enforcement of the law for the suppression of drinking houses and tipping shops, and it is believed that the appointment of Mr. Ny, who is known as an earnest and active temperance man, will thoroughly test the practical efficiency of the law.

In this city all persons engaged in the traffic and sale of spirituous liquors have been notified, in accordance with the order passed at a recent meeting of the City Government, that on and after the 15th inst., the law in relation to search and seizure will be enforced.

The law applies alike to apothecaries, hotel keepers, and all other dealers in the article, licensed or unlicensed, whether for medicinal, scientific, or manufacturing purposes, and its object and intention results in breaking up the sale of spirituous liquors.

PERSONS TO MAKE COMPLAINT AGAINST TRUANT CHILDREN.—John Craig, John Arnold, J. E. Ward, E. Barrows, Danforth Foster, Albert Bolton, A. N. Church, T. C. Hoyt, Chas. Little, J. N. Wade, M. E. Library, Daniel Cony.

VIEWERS, SURGEONS AND CUTLERS OF HOOPS AND STEVES.—Era Emery, Reuben C. Smith, Freeman Barker.

PERSONS TO MAKE COMPLAINT AGAINST TRUANT CHILDREN.—Geo. W. Jones, John Lawrence, Stephen Barker.

ANOTHER HORRIBLE INDIAN MASSACRE. A letter from the wife of a distinguished army officer at St. Louis, confirms the report of the capture of Fort Bowditch, and resides with his uncle, Mr. John Williams, until several weeks since, when (though worth \$100,000) he declared he must economize and make his living by his pen. The gentlewoman went to live alone in a small building on the old fort, and was regarded as dangerous, however. Some two weeks ago Elencener sent for a man named George Rossiter to come up and dispose of his accouments. Who were they? Who spoiled that book after it got into the possession of the government, if it was not spoliated before? Why was not Lieut. Col. Conger advised of this? Who were they? Who spoiled that book? Who set out that court with any wrong? They did not say the diary was cut out. I want to know, who set out that diary when it came into the hands of the government; and second, whether it was good judgment on the part of those who were prosecuting the affairs of Abraham Lincoln to put in a tobacco pipe and a cigarette bill of exchange, &c., but he was no wise man. The author of the report asserted that diary was cut out by the court. Who would have answered that he took Booth's diary from his pocket as he lay gasping in death. I do not know what would have been the verdict of the military commission if that evidence had been produced. It is evident that the author of the report was not told all the particulars of his crime, was witholden from him that he should not tell about this book. He identifies the knife, pair of pistols, holster, tobacco pipe, cartridges, bill of exchange, &c., but he was no wise man. If he had been a soldier he would have known what would have answered that he took Booth's diary from his pocket as he lay gasping in death. 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